

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (previously presented) An elevator system, comprising:

a hoistway having a hoistway door and a ceiling;

an elevator car located in the hoistway;

a drive motor drivingly coupled to the elevator car, the drive motor being located in a fixed position immediately adjacent to one of a top and bottom portion of a hoistway door and below the hoistway ceiling; and

a housing for substantially enclosing the drive motor relative to an adjacent hallway, wherein the housing includes a movable panel protruding externally of the hoistway into the adjacent hallway, the movable panel providing access to the drive motor from a position in front of the hoistway door.

Claims 19-23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (New) An elevator system comprising:

a hoistway having a plurality of hoistway doors and a ceiling;

an elevator car and at least one counterweight located in the hoistway;

a drive motor drivingly coupled to the elevator car and counterweight via elongated connectors, the drive motor being located immediately adjacent to one of a top and bottom portion of a hoistway door and below the hoistway ceiling, wherein the drive motor is located above a top portion of a topmost hoistway door; and

a housing for substantially enclosing the drive motor relative to an adjacent hallway, wherein the housing includes a movable panel protruding externally of the hoistway into the adjacent hallway, the movable panel providing access to the drive motor from a position in front of the adjacent hoistway door.

Claim 25 (New) An elevator system as defined in claim 25, wherein the movable panel is located above a hoistway door.